

Dear Senators and Representatives --

I have had the privilege of sitting on the board of directors for the South Central CT. Substance Abuse Council for several years. Over the last few years we have seen an increase in budget cutting for the programs which this Council offers to our communities. This year it is appalling to see the radical cuts that the Governor is planning on making to the RACS and I appeal to each of you to reject the budget as set forth.

Each day the news programs begin with the number of deaths which Connecticut has had since January 1st, 2016, due to drug overdoses. On Sunday, a thirty-six year old man from Wallingford died as a result of an overdose -- he was the son of very dear friends so, it is now effecting me and my family. The deaths due to opiate overdoses have reached heightened levels and we need to address this.

The programs which the SCCSAC hosts are all well attended, whether they are for training purposes for emergency responders, mental health providers or school systems We need to keep these programs alive to provide the necessary training to these service providers and to turn the addiction problem in our state around.

I urge you all to dig down deep and reject the budget cuts to the RACS and pray that you personally will not be faced with a death in your family or a loved one's family due to the lack of services offered within our communities.

Sincerely,

Judi Gallagher